

NEW-YORK, 25th August, 1864.
MY DEAR SIR: I wrote to you a few days since, and mentioned the receipt of two letters from you, and one of 24 July from M. to R. They had been recently mailed in Maryland. My letter is entrusted to a friend who expects an opportunity to-day of sending it through. As it may not reach you, I will send this also by another route. I sent for a description, lately procured from the inventor, of two improvements in the material of war, copies of them will accompany this letter. I cannot judge of their utility, but you can subject them to scientific examination at the proper departments, if not approved no harm can result from sending them. The inventor thinks they can be rendered very effective. Some very successful experiments have been made of them. They are not shown to this Government. I have persuaded him that if they proved valuable my Government would after the war properly reward him. The submarine battery is for close action, say about 100 yards. The missile for a smooth bore gun of any caliber is as accurate, but can be sent so far as the ordinary ball. The objection to it is that if the enemy sees it he can imitate it.

M's letter furnished the only information I have had of the exchange. My release has until recently been positively, and on one or two occasions, rudely refused to my friends here on the ground of my "audacious capacity for mischief" as exhibited in my "audacious letters to the authorities while in prison." A few days before the receipt of M's letter a friend renewed the application to Lincoln; he replied that they had no longer any objection to my going home, but while the armies were so near Washington it would not be prudent to let me go through their lines into the Rebel lines. Since M's letter I have had inquiries made of the office controlling exchanges at Washington. He said my exchange had been effected. It was through Butler that some time since Butler applied for authority to exchange me, believing he could benefit some of his men. The authority was granted, but nothing heard about it since. Surely our Government don't negotiate with, or recognize Butler. Sooner let me remain a prisoner forever. I believe my exchange is known to the Government, but it does not suit their interest to return me just now. The cunning, unscrupulous and vulgar President and his baroness, sanguinary, cruel and mendacious Secretary of War will not hesitate to do anything however infamous, that they think will advance their nefarious schemes. I hope you will have the demand for my return promptly made. I am happy to say that I believe we shall ere long have a sight of the dove of peace. Even in the mad orgy of slaughter and speculation the people here have begun to think of the future which they are mortgaging. The masses are right enough already and hate the war, but like the "war-horse whose neck is clothed in thunder," they don't know their own strength, and therefore they quietly submit to be led or driven. But intelligent and influential men here are beginning to see, and women, too, that the job of subjugating the South, if longer continued, will ruin the jobs. The wise and discreet correspondence of those Confederate gentlemen at Niagara, and especially the manifesto they drew from Lincoln, and above all the late trouble and disaster at Petersburg are making a great change in the views and purposes of the people, and if kind Providence shall continue to favor our arms the unconditional peace party will control the ensuing election—caution our press against unnecessarily declaring that the South will consent to nothing but eternal separation; all good men think that she ought not, and all wise men know that she will not accept less than her independence. But men don't like to go from one extreme to the other; they need a middle ground to stand upon, and many who, in despair of conquering the South, will support the peace candidate, must be allowed the argument to their old grievous change; the disastrous and humiliating eclipse this Government has suffered. They see that it has become a filthy monster, smeared with the bloody sacrifice of its own children, a detestable compound of crimes and vices at which humanity stands aghast, a despotism that can be fully described only as the "sum of all villainies." "A league with hell and a covenant with death." They cannot longer fail to perceive that the Southern people are fighting for their liberties, as well as for their own, and that no greater calamity could happen to them than the overthrow of the South, the destruction of the one who would speedily be followed by the subjugation of the other. Such men, and they are not few, have no disposition to oppose a Confederate army, whether on their border or in their midst—rather would they have them as friends and deliverers. Should the army now in Pennsylvania capture Washington and exterminate the herd of thieves, Pharisees, cut-throats and other monsters of iniquity which pasture there, all good men would regard it as a special interposition of Divine Providence in behalf of justice, judgment and mercy. Please remember me, in greatest kindness, to each of your family. With best wishes, I am, very truly, your friend.

To those well-meaning men, who proclaim for peace but can't direct their minds of the absurdity of "the Union and Constitution as they were." I have said, there is but one conceivable mode of effecting reunion, or making it desirable to true friends of the right, and that is to strike a blow for your freedom and your rights, and the Southern army will aid your efforts to regain them, and thus battling in a common cause the two armies will readily unite and exterminate or expel the vile Yankees, and as they are arriving to exterminate the South. The one-quarter of the present Northern population that would be then left would be homogeneous with the South, and the present, otherwise insuperable, barriers to reunion be swept away forever. I am not without reasonable hope that, if Lincoln & Co. are not arrested this Fall through the ballot box, they will have other armies to meet beside the Confederate. But admit that every thing good depends upon present Confederate successes. *The sense of insecurity alone here upon which calculations can be reliably based. We have good news to-day from Mobile.

New-York Tribune.

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NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1865.

PRICE FOUR CENTS.

An Anonymous Letter.

(MEMORANDUM ON BACK—Anonymous letter in regard to the evacuation of Virginia. See 4th Oct., 1864.)
WINDY HOSPITAL, 1st DIVISION,
October 6, 1864.

To His Excellency Gen. Smith.
Excuse a wounded officer, a Virginian, if he ventures to address you on a subject in which our mother State is vitally interested, and on which the ultimate fate of our Confederacy may depend.

I have reason to believe that the abandonment of Richmond and the consequent evacuation of Virginia is being contemplated by our authorities as a possible contingency during the crisis which is now impending. Virginia has at her command the means of preventing such a fatal step—fatal to herself, fatal it may be, to the Confederacy, for if we give up Virginia, we will be stronger in North Carolina.

Shall Virginia perish, or be chained even for a moment, when, throughout the State, there are thousands of her sons tilling the soil, and engaged in other peaceful pursuits?

What are these farms worth to us if we give up Virginia? Two months' service from these farmers and others may save the State. If the Governor has not authority to call the farmers to Richmond, let the proper Legislative body give him that authority at once; or would not the danger of the Commonwealth justify him in assuming it?

What I suggest is not impracticable. I can go to any little neighborhood in Central Virginia and raise a company of farmers and overseers. And would not these gentlemen, if they knew the danger which threatened Virginia, come gladly to her support, rather than be left in the lines of the Federal army by the abandonment of the State?

Yes, Governor! If Virginia is in danger, let all her sons be summoned to her aid; and if we cannot save her, we can at least die together under that blue flag which must not be exiled to another State. But we will leave her if we make the effort. Great emergencies must be met by extraordinary measures.

Virginia has been called the Mother of Statesmen and soldiers. You represent one class of her children; I, the other. Shall we abandon her? Shall the name of which we are so justly proud, perish from the earth or sink into contempt? Never let it be said that the children live. Let old and young, the feeble and the strong, the farmer and the mechanic, come forward in this crisis of her fate, and we will save her. Virginia shall still live!

Pardon the liberty I have taken in addressing you thus, and believe me your friend.

VIRGINIA FOLKWEAR.

From Gen. Ewell.

(MEMORANDUM ON BACK—General Ewell, Nov., 1864.)
RICHMOND, VA., Nov. 15, 1864.

His Excellency, Gen. Wm. Smith.

Governor: In answer to your communication of this date, I would respectfully suggest that there is no time to make any further arrangements between this and to-morrow—the time you propose in your communication of Oct. 17, to withdraw the two regiments of Virginia militia under your command. I have the honor to ask if under the arrangement proposed by Brigadier-General Gardner, commanding post of Richmond, viz.: to relieve the men every other day—you are willing to continue the present arrangement, and if so, for how many days? If your Colonels report a certain number of men for duty and we ask for one-half daily, which seems less than the troops at the trenches perform, how many days will you wait to allow other arrangements? I have not a copy of the agreement you refer to. Will you lend me yours? This arrangement would be much lighter duty than falls to the rest of the troops of my command in the trenches. Major Turner offers to guard the Libby and hospitals with one hundred (100) men, to be kept on one month without relief. But if you will continue the present arrangement on basis of one-half for a few days longer, it will give me time for other arrangements.

Respectfully, &c.,
R. S. EWELL, Lieut. General.

P. S.—Please answer by bearer.

From Gov. Smith's Sister Maria.

(MEMORANDUM ON BACK—Gov. Smith of Virginia, Oct. 23, 1864.)
TALBOTTON, Oct. 23, 1864.

MY DEAR BROTHER: I write a few lines to let you know where we are. We left Atlanta the 15th of September for this place. We have been fortunate in getting as well fixed as we are. The Yankees came into Atlanta on Friday about 11 o'clock. Sunday morning took possession of my premises, pitched tents all over the yard, which is a very extensive one. They took my grape arbor for a dand house, cut down my nursery which had been planted by my beloved Cecil, and put tents all through that and the orchard. You may imagine, my dear brother, what my feelings were when I saw the labor of years by my beloved son destroyed in a few hours, and that by his worst enemies. I then remembered on the other hand, his noble spirit, and how little he would care for such destruction, except as far as the support of his mother and sisters was concerned. I then threw off the weight under which I felt I should sink for a short time, and rose superior to everything around me. I could witness the destruction of my property, which a few days before was so beautiful in my eyes, with a calmness and composure which surprised me. As I told some of the officers that my peace of mind arose from the conviction that a just God would soon wreak his vengeance upon them for all they had done and would still do to us. If the Yankees had commenced in Atlanta by imprisoning ladies, all three of us would now be in some Northern prison, for I assure you we gave it to them right and left, especially Daughters. We are now in this place, after having lost all of our negroes except one. I never saw my cows after the Yankees got into the city. So you see that we are deprived of everything except our furniture, we got the most of that. Brother William, can't you possibly come and see us, if it is only for a short time. I do believe you would be proud to see how happy we are in our state of exile. I know our land can't be carried away, yet I feel that I shall get it without a true sending. I rejoice that I can make this sacrifice with such feelings that not a murmur or complaint ever escapes us. We expect hard times, but my mind is made up to it; we are not the first females who have had to make a living. Mr. Johnson wants us to go down the country, that is in South Carolina, but I am opposed to that, as the climate disagrees with me so much. I feel that I could stand it but a few months. I hope I shall soon hear the object of the meeting of our Governors. I pray God it may result in much good to our suffering country. I wish I could go to see you, but as my income is cut off that is impossible. I expect in a few days to begin a little school, and you know it does not take much to support us and one servant.

I inclose this to Dr. Ford as the surest means of your getting it. The girls both send their best love to their uncle, and sincerely hope they will see him before his return to Richmond. Farewell, my dear brother, and may God bless you, is the prayer of your attached sister.

MARIA.

From Gen. McCausland.

(MEMORANDUM ON BACK—Gen. McCausland, Oct. 29, 1864.)
NEAR LURAY, PAGE CO., VA., Oct. 23, '64.

SIR: I have been here several days, but am not allowed to do anything on my own responsibility, and hence can only pick and march in accordance with the numerous orders we receive. This cavalry is

badly managed, and no opportunity is afforded to do anything. Lomax is a poor commander and allows many chances to pass unimproved. We could have captured the whole Yankee wagon train a few days since, but after marching my brigade (60) sixty miles in one day, and coming in sight of the train, we were not allowed to attack it.

I have not yet seen Col. Tom, but heard yesterday that he was safe. This Cavalry Division was not in the fight of the 19th. This was bad management. Early was defeated in the evening of the 19th, after his brilliant success of the morning of the same date. He had fallen back at 12 o'clock, at which time he had accomplished everything he could reasonably expect to accomplish, he would have saved everything, and made a brilliant dash of what has resulted in a huge disaster. One of his Aids told me yesterday that he had only (30) sixteen pieces of artillery left in his whole army. Gen. Johnson's Infantry came to our pickets yesterday with one man, he had wandered in the mountains for two days. Gen. Gordon was also in the mountains for some time. Col. Ferguson tells me that he was not sent after the Rapidan riders, but that his orders were "to move from Brown's Gap into Green, and watch a party that was reported to be in that county," but that he found upon reaching his destination that Early and Lomax were mistaken. He then pushed on into Culpeper upon his own responsibility, and that neither Lomax nor Early knew of that party, and that he was not started in time to intercept them. The whole matter is summed up in this manner: That he was sent after one party, and found no enemy where he was ordered to go, but found another party going through Culpeper, and went after them, but could not overtake them. He also started to help Mosby at Rectortown, but was ordered back by Lomax. He also says he was not allowed any discretion at all. So you see how the matter stands, and if Gen. Lee was informed that they were sent after the Rapidan party this was a false report. I hope you will excuse this hasty letter—I write on my knees.

Give my kindest regards to your family. I am ever truly yours,

JNO. MCCAUSLAND.

From the Rev. John Clark.

(MEMORANDUM ON BACK—Rev. John Clark, Dec. 1864.)
STAFFORD COUNTY, 14th Nov., 1864.

GOV. SMITH, Dear Sir:—When at Fredericksburg a few days since I received two letters from you. The last written was in answer to my report of C. Beardsley, the absconding telegraph operator. I am glad that you preserve my letters, for should any of them reach the enemy I should, no doubt, be regarded in their great wrath. I propose now to give you some additional information in regard to men and things in here. And, first, let me say to you in the strictest confidence, that there are men in here who hold offices of some importance, that now plead and sympathize with the set of traitors, or Union men, as they are pleased to call themselves, who insist that the adjoining counties, a partial list of their names you will find subjoined. Some of the advocates of these men are looking forward to places of trust and profit under the Confederate Government, such as the sequestration or confiscation of the property of alien enemies, &c., and I would beg leave to suggest that before any person in this country is appointed to any such office, you consult with some gentleman in here of known and tried patriotism, and loyalty, and devotion to our cause.

There are, indeed, men who are held office under the Confederate Government who are handing tobacco and other contraband articles across the river, to be sent to the enemy. You would be astonished to know the large quantity of tobacco that is sent from Fredericksburg to Alexandria by men under the patronage of the Government and in connection with the army. These articles are taken to the Union men in Prince William, and they take them to Alexandria. If the Government has any men detailed to operate about Damier, for any purpose whatever, if such details are revoked, I will put a stop to such contraband trade. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

I wish to report a case of horse-stealing in Capt. Kinchele's company of Rangers, which, perhaps, should be reported to Gen. Lee, but you can give it the proper direction if it does not come within the purview of your administration. A horse was stolen from Will Grayson, an orderly, well-disposed man and true to the South, who lives near me, and was sold first to John Goodwin in Prince William, and by him sold to John Gibson, near Brantville. The next account we have of the horse is in the possession of C. A. Cannon, a member of Capt. Kinchele's company. I both find the Captain of it, and requested him to have Cannon bring the horse to me. He answered by letter, and proposed to pay some five hundred dollars for the horse, &c. I informed him that the horse was not for sale; that the owner needed him as he had no other, and could not replace him for the money offered; and then repeated the request for him to direct Cannon to return the horse, but it has not been done, and I learn that Cannon has traded the horse off to a gentleman in Westernland County by the name of Hatt, and gave as a reason for so doing that he was afraid it would be taken from him if he brought it to Prince William. So says Benjamin Murphy and Luther Murphy, both members of his company, and who told Cannon that the horse belonged to Grayson before he parted with it. Cannon, as the Captain says, reports that he purchased the horse of one Newton Woodard. About that I know nothing and care nothing. He is found in possession of the horse, and if he purchased him he has recourse to the party he bought him of, who is said to be responsible. But his refusal to deliver up the horse creates suspicion in my mind that he came by him in some other way.

On the next page you will find a list of names of persons who have taken the oath of allegiance to the Yankee Government, and who trade constantly to Alexandria and Washington. Yours as ever,

JOHN CLARK.

P. S.—I was informed by the Rev. Melchior, Chancellor of Spotsylvania County (and who has recently been taken from Fort Delaware, having been taken by the enemy when they were in that County in May last), that every man who holds office in the Confederate Government in that County were formerly Whigs, and the most bitter opponents of the Democratic party; that, however, should not now be remembered against them, but they are now the most of them about the Administration, and the Collector of the Titles in that County, Pickett, I think his name, is now advocating a reconstruction of the Union with the Yankees, after the war is over.

Well may we say with Horace—O tempora! O mores! N. B. Since writing the foregoing I have been told by Lieut. Carter that Frank Taylor, a man who owns a mill on Chappawamsic Creek, is circulating a petition to obtain subscribers to authorize him to open a distillery, to distill grain, and which he says the Secretary of War will authorize him to do, if his neighbors will subscribe to it. I do sincerely hope that Mr. Seldon will do no such thing, for we have no grain to spare in this section where many, and some of them soldiers' families, are upon the point of starvation. Beside this, this Frank Taylor took the oath of allegiance to the Yankees when they were in here, and has now a bill of protection from them, which exempts him from arrest by them. This Lieut. Carter informs me, and says that Henry Lee, of Fredericksburg, has knowledge of that fact, because he witnessed it when he was a prisoner in the hands of the Yankees. Taylor has been distilling brandy (and his place is a resort for deserters from our army), and I

should think that what little grain there is in here might be spared to the citizens for bread. You will know what use to make of this so as to protect me, I feel well assured.

J. C.
18th November, 1864.

Citizens of Prince William County who have taken the oath of allegiance to the Yankee Government—Burman Davis, Thomas Maddox, Oliver Chamberling, William Frazer, Frank Arrington, Richard Windsor, John W. Davis, Hugh Hammett and son, Fred. Lyns, Old Seymour, Edward Moore, Henry Smoot, Ezekiel Lynn, John Cross, William Davis, of Job, George Savage, Pembroke Road, has a son, a deserter from our army, Black Tom Reeves, James Reeves, Hiram Holman, Zeb. Canby.

Citizens of Stafford County, who are disloyal to the Confederate Government—Mason Shelton—goes to Washington at pleasure. Just returned from there a few days ago. Barnett Garrison, has gone to the Yankees, and left his family and effects here. Mason Burman—is decidedly with the enemy; went to Washington some time ago, but is at home now. He and his son are both of the proper age for our army, so also are the others named.

From the Rev. John Clark.

(MEMORANDUM ON BACK—Rev. John Clark, Dec. 1864.)
STAFFORD COUNTY, 14th Nov., 1864.

GOV. SMITH, Dear Sir:—Some few weeks since I forwarded to you a list of names of disloyal persons living in Stafford and Prince William Counties. Some of these men are in the habit, as I stated, of going alternately to Richmond and Alexandria and Washington, which I consider must result detrimental to our cause. I concluded that the list would be furnished to the Provost-Marshal in Richmond, so that he could detect any of them should they at any time apply for passports to leave Richmond, but I was informed a few days ago that Zeb Canby, (whose name was on the list referred to) returned from Richmond a few days before. It is impossible for any person living south of Washington to go there, or to Alexandria either, and get a passport, without taking the oath of allegiance to the Yankee Government; and if all such can go to Richmond and return at pleasure, it seems to me that Gen. Lee might as well call in all his pickets and let the enemy have free and unmolested ingress and egress to and from Richmond. If, however, Canby and others, who are running backward and forward from Richmond to Washington, are in the secret service of our Government, why, then, it is all well.

The case of Frank Taylor, which I reported a short time since, that he was conscripted when he went to Richmond, and was permitted to return home to prepare for service, but, as he said, to get his neighbors to petition the Secretary of War for him to remain at home and operate a distillery, &c., I have now to state that he and Holden Canby have commenced distilling grain at his mill on Chappawamsic Creek. If this business is allowed, I do not see anything to prevent strangers in here, as they offer such prices for grain that other citizens cannot give, and besides, the grain is not here to spare for distilling as there is not enough made for bread.

Sophia Botts, the mother of the deserter and traitor, Tom Botts, who led the Yankees in here last Spring at the time my son was shot, makes about weekly trips to Alexandria, and, as I have been informed, is employed by the Yankees to carry deserters and conscripts to them at \$30 a head. Last week she induced a soldier by the name of Randall, who belonged to the Forty-sixth Virginia Regiment of Infantry, to go with her. He had been wounded, but had recovered, and was reported a good soldier, and no doubt would not have thought of deserting but for her influence.

There is also another case near Garrisonville, in this County. Mason Shelton, who led the Yankees about when they occupied that section. Is no doubt in the employment of the Yankees in a similar way, as he took his son to them last week, and also induced two of his neighbors to go, and all to evade conscription for our army. His name is on the list of Tories that I sent to you. He had been up to Washington several times during the month before he went up with his son and the two others named.

I will add in relation to Mrs. Botts, that she does not hesitate to threaten any of her neighbors with the Yankees if she is disturbed in any way; and I learn that I come in for a full share of abuse from her, and of threats of violence by her devoted friends, the Yankees. Many of her neighbors are really afraid of her, as she is a vile tyrannical, and would go to any lengths to seek revenge when she is offended.

As our Government has uniformly sent back all such characters when they have been arrested and sent to Richmond, unless a different policy should be pursued, I would not have them arrested; for when they come back they are worse than they were before they were arrested. There was John Underwood, from Occoquan, who was discharged in Richmond, and from there went directly to Alexandria, where he is Assistant Provost-Marshal. Also, old Douglas, who lives near Manassas, and Pierpont's representative from Prince William, Hastings, were discharged; and all this in face of the fact that the Yankees have hundreds of our citizens from Stafford, Prince William, Fauquier, &c., in prison, and some of them have been confined for more than a year. If the Government would have these traitors taken out and kept them out, confine them during the war, or hang them, which would be the best disposition that could be made of them, I would urge their immediate arrest; but if they are only to be taken to Richmond, and in a few weeks permitted to return, let them by all means remain undisturbed, and let them practice their villainies and treason unmolested. "Better to endure the ills we have," &c. Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN CLARK.

P. S.—Since writing the foregoing I have been informed by Richard Shepherd, Gen. Fitz Lee's scout in here, that some four or five cavalry men, supposed to be deserters, but at any rate they are robbers, took Mrs. Botts's horse from her a few days since, and she threatened to have the Yankees to come in here and to take every horse and to break up every citizen for ten miles around.

Kinchele's men were near when those robbers were operating, but they did not concern with them. The truth is, they are perfectly worthless. They have elected James Purcell captain, and it may be that he can make them serviceable.

From Gen. P. Kane.

(MEMORANDUM ON BACK—G. P. Kane of Md., Oct. 1864.)
Private.

AMERICAN HOTEL, Oct. 7th.

To His Excellency Gen. Wm. Smith.
MY DEAR SIR: I am a lawyer, and could not in my brief service to-day present the case of my exiled Maryland boys as I could have wished. They feel that they are not appreciated from the causes stated. They are impulsive, and came here with glowing affection for Virginia; but from the scurrilous newspaper articles published from time to time denouncing their State, and recent occurrences briefly mentioned to-day, they are heart-sick. It is possible to infuse all the original vim and spirit into them that first inspired them and brought them here to fight, and I think that you can do more than any other person to that end. My judgment is, and that judgment is confirmed by all intelligent men from your State who are here, except perhaps some few who want place, that you should acknowledge their

right to be here as exiles and to be protected as refugees, leaving it entirely to their honor and manhood to fight or not fight for the homes they have sought. Let this be publicly and officially known as coming from the Governor of Virginia, and depend upon it, if the Secretary of War acknowledges the decision of the courts and accords a full discharge to Marylanders who have served the full term of their enlistment, you will have but few desert the cause.

I tried to impress these views upon the Hon. Secretary, but failed, and I fear from my earnestness and want of facility in expressing my views prejudiced him against them and myself.

I KNOW that I am right in these views, and I also know that the refusal of the Department to grant them these discharges and efforts to hold them as conscripts have failed to get one single good soldier and have lost many, and will, if persisted in, lose nearly all of them.

Young men, have I learn, come over within the past month to the number of one hundred and upward to join the army and have returned, from the accounts they got on their arrival of the treatment of their friends, already in service, whose time had expired, some of whom, as is natural, wishing to join other companies, and others to make brief visits to their homes to get new outfits.

Recollect that nearly all these young men who require horses have to get the money to replace them when unfit for service, from their friends at home.

I think the President holds these views, at least I think that he does. Now, my dear Governor, just make them feel that you—that Virginia recognizes their rights, and a new spirit will animate them.

Yours very respectfully,
GEO. P. KANE.

From Judge E. Ward.

(MEMORANDUM ON BACK—Case of Isaac J. Allison, J. P. Giles Co., suggests a means of preventing desertion. Rev. Nov. 3, 1864.)
Private.

GOV.: Something must be done to stop desertions. I make the following suggestions. If they meet your approval I hope you will communicate them to our authorities. Let every person that is exempt be furnished with proper papers. Let every agent of the Government or contractor of any kind have papers; every frayed and tattered man have his papers well authenticated. Let the country know how these papers are to be made out, and then make a general order requiring every person, before giving meat or drink to any person, to see that he has the proper papers. This done, and let every regiment have about four or five field horsemen, and after the rolls are called in the morning and persons are found absent, let these dash out in the direction they would likely go, and send out a description of the deserter and require every person to aid in his arrest, and it would be almost impossible for deserters to escape. Respectfully,
E. WARD.

From the Rev. John Clark.

(MEMORANDUM ON BACK—John Clark, Dec. 17, '64.)
STAFFORD COUNTY, 14th Nov., 1864.

GOV. SMITH, Dear Sir:—As you have encouraged me to write freely to you upon any matters of interest that may transpire in here in relation to our common cause, I take occasion to inform you of a case of running the blockade to the enemy which has recently come to my knowledge, and which, as I understand the army regulations, is a violation of them.

A man by the name of Newton Thomas, a resident of Prince William County, carried a load of goods, cotton yarns and cloths, from Fredericksburg to Alexandria, a week or so since, and sold them. I have before stated to you that this kind of trade is constantly carried on, and that men in the employment of the Government are engaged in it; and although the country is swarming with scouts and detailed men for various purposes in here, they do not pretend to interfere with the contraband trade. It is had enough, but might be tolerated, to get goods from the enemy, but to be sending our cotton cloth and other important articles to them, which is needed here for our army and citizens, ought not to appear to me, to be allowed under any circumstances.

My conclusion is that the detailed men in here either have no orders to interfere with this business, or else they are utterly worthless, and should be recalled, and others sent in their stead who would obey the orders. It may be that the Government does not believe the statements which have been repeatedly made concerning the matter. At all events, if no effort is made by the Government to change the order of things in here, I shall not consider it necessary to make any further communication to you upon this subject.

In regard to the conscripts in this County and Prince William, I am more confirmed in the opinion heretofore expressed, from a personal knowledge of the facts, that the men who have that business in charge at Fredericksburg will never get them out, for the good reason, they lack energy and good generalship, and they know nothing of the country and habits of these people. Twenty men selected from the Prince William Cavalry and the Stafford Cavalry would soon sweep this section not only of conscripts, but deserters also, and that number is often in here on horse detail and on foot, but without orders as to conscripts and deserters. Some of the Tories in here have been sending their sons to the Yankees, and others who are subject to military duty themselves have left their families here, and have gone within the lines of the enemy. I highly approve of your late message upon the subject of such characters, and I earnestly hope that the Legislature will promptly act in the premises, and frame a law in strict accordance with your recommendations. Let the property of all such true skulkers be taken and divided among our noble soldiers, who have borne the heat and burden of the day, and who have stood in the breach and bared their breasts to the enemy in defense of our rights and liberties, and let their families be sent after them, and I would, moreover, prohibit them from ever returning here after the war, upon the ground that, as men who refused to fight for our liberties should be permitted to enjoy them. I mean, of course, no citizens of a Confederate State. We must, when we establish fully our independence, allow foreigners to settle among us, and become citizens if they choose to do so; but Tories and traitors never. A man who goes to the enemy to keep out of the army and to evade his duty to his country, is a traitor, and also a deserter according to the spirit of the law; and there are men in here who boast of their Southern principles, &c., who are warm advocates of that class of traitors.

Who has jurisdiction in the case of horse stealing, which I reported to you a short time since, you, Gen. Lee, or the Secretary of War? It would afford great relief to a poor and worthy man, if his horse was restored to him, as it was the only one he had, and he is not able to buy another.

With kind regards, I remain yours as ever,
JOHN CLARK.

P. S.—Since writing the foregoing I have learned from good authority that Mason Shelton, who lives near Garrisonville, in this County, and who conducted the Yankees about to the homes of prominent Southern men when they occupied that section, carried his son to the Yankees last week, and induced two of his neighbors to go also, all to keep out of the way of our conscript officers, and to keep out of our army. This Shelton has been going to Washington every week for some time, and I suppose he arranged with the Yankees about taking those men over when he last went to Washington. It can be proven upon him that he led the Yankees about when they were here, and was also seen with them in King George County.

U. S. IRON CLAD GREENWICH.
MOBILE BAY, April 3, 1865.

A few days ago one of the enemy's shells killed and wounded 15 of our men, and another shell exploded killed and wounded 12.

On the night of the 30th ult. a Rebel Captain came into our lines and delivered himself up to an officer of the 14th Wisconsin, who had charge of the picket lines. The Captain of the Wisconsin regiment was taken by surprise when he learned that his friend just from Dixie was his own brother. As you may imagine, there was much rejoicing in camp that night. The Rebel Captain has taken the oath of allegiance, and says that he will never again raise his hand against the good and glorious old flag of our fathers. In a moment of enthusiasm he forgot his allegiance to his country, and rushed into the ranks of the enemies of the republic. But he is heartily sick and tired of Rebellion, as he says thousands of others are. This gentleman estimates the Rebel force at about 20,000 infantry and 20,000 cavalry, a large amount of artillery and the navy. The defenses of the city, he states, are supposed to be impregnable. The Rebels are bound to fight, if they find we are determined to move on the works by direct assault. If the city is captured in this manner, it can only be done so by great loss of life. Our troops, however, both army and navy, are confident of success, and confidence, you know, is one of the great elements that works out success.

Among the troops defending Mobile are many brave and old men. They will undoubtedly fight well behind breastworks and fortifications, but in an open field they would be as chaff before our veterans.

It is generally believed that Gen. Maury will burn the city if he is compelled to evacuate it.

The Rebel gunboats have not shown themselves as yet, the commanders, no doubt, acting on the old saying, that discretion is the better part of valor. Our sea monsters will give them a warm reception on their approach.

The delay caused by removing the obstructions in the channel has prevented our fleet of gunboats and monitors from operating with the army thus far. The channel is lined with torpedoes of the most explosive and dangerous character, and the Rebels are supposed to form one of the greatest barriers to our movements. But we are fast removing them.

The Milwaukee is a total loss to the Government. The Ouzo can be raised and repaired as good as new. The light-tender Rodolph was captured by a Rebel gunboat on the 1st inst., by which accident six men were killed and several wounded. These are serious losses, but we have still a navy sufficient to gain victory. The iron-clad mace-of-war Cincinnati is a loss which cannot be made up by